

STORY 92.

SHERSHA SURI'S REGARD FOR ISLAM.

SHERSHA SURI was one of the best rulers India has ever had. He has been praised by Hindus and Muslims alike, and the reason is that he was a true Muslim as the following anecdote will show.

In the beginning of his career Shersha Suri served as a common soldier in the body-guard of the Moghal emperor, Hamayoun. He was a trusted servant of the emperor and enjoyed great influence at the court.

It was the new years day. The emperor was enjoying himself on the top of the Qutb Minar and his great army was assembled on the plains around. Only Shershah was in attendance.

Suddenly looking at the vast size of his army Hamayoun burst out in this blasphemous strain, "The hosts of the Almighty alone may exceed my army in numbers."

This was rank blasphemy and was too much for the orthodox sentiments of Shersha. He could not restrain his indignation and in a tone thrilling with emotion he said to Hamayoun, "Hark, Oh king! From today we part. After hearing from your lips such irreverent words I can serve you no longer." With these words he left Hamayoun and coming home asked his brothers to get their horses ready and rode away.

STORY 93.

THE GREAT SELF-DENIAL OF BAQI BILLA.

KHWAJA BAQI BILLA was a very famous saint in the time of Akbar. He was a great traveller.

Once he was at Lahore where a severe famine was raging in those days, and people especially the poor were suffering great hardships.

The sight of the people's suffering made the saint restless and uneasy and caused him great distress. But what could he do except that when food was brought to him he would not touch it and caused it to be distributed among the poor starving people who were near at hand. In this way it is said he lived without food for many days.